[STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT WORCESTER.]

APPRENTICE'S DIARY

FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Friday, March 4, 1887.

APPRENTICE.

Annie E. Fales

SCHOOL.

GRADE II, Gage Street

TEACHER, Miss Maggie E. Magone

Monday, February 28.

This morning for busy work I had my class write on their slates a part of the reading lesson. One boy did not seem to like the idea, and although I asked him to do so two or three times, he did not. I told him if he would not write his lesson, to write me a letter. He said he'd rather write to his mother and was quite interested at the thought. I told him he might write to her, feeling glad to see him so much in earnest, and he wrote a short letter, spending about twenty minutes and asking me several words to spell for him. The next time I told the class to write on their slates — the number lesson — he said "I'd rather write a letter." I will copy his letter on

Tuesday, March 1.

About half past three this afternoon, my teacher left the School alone with me for the rest of the time. I was hearing a reading lesson by my division. As soon as she left the room, there was a change. Whispering, laughing, and a general good time began. Before I had a chance to say anything, the Principal of the Building came in unexpectedly, and I was amused to see how quiet the room became. She stayed about fifteen minutes, and after she was gone, I had no more trouble. This is the first time I have been left alone with the School.

See last page.

Wednesday, March 2.

Today at the Normal School. We listened to part of a letter from a graduate of the School, read by the Principal. This teacher spoke of the interest she had felt in noticing the plays of her pupils. One of the teachers began to read to us today, a Danish play — "Knip René's Daughter" — but one class we heard a story ~~of~~ a written by a little boy about ten years old. It was very amusing, and remarkably written and worded for one of that age.

Thursday, March 3.

In number today, I let a boy who is rather disorderly, go to the board and point to combinations which I called upon the class to answer. He seemed quite pleased to do this, and several of the boys asked to do the same in the afternoon. One other boy whom I had to speak to several times for disorder said to me "If I am good may I do that?" I told him he could, and had no more trouble with him. The children all seem to think a great deal of any little thing like that, by which they can, as it were, be teacher.

Friday, March 4.

This morning I was visited by Miss Jones while hearing a reading lesson. I think the children were more disorderly than usual during the whole time she was in the room, although I thought it would be just the reverse. In the afternoon while hearing my class read again I tried to use some of the suggestions Miss Jones gave me in the morning. I think I succeeded quite well in interesting the children more than usual. Reading has been the hardest lesson for me to make interesting.

"Worcester Mass. February 28
Dear Mother

I think I will go to Norwich instead of Falmouth my vacation Willie fell down and hurt his noze Your son

"

Several times, when I had told this boy to write his readings or number lessons he has said, "I'd rather write a letter."